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National Black Church Initiative

P.O. Box 65177
Washington, DC 20035-5177 2008 JUN 27 P 2: 43, 202-744-0184
dcbci2002@yahoo.com
www.naltblackchurch.com

June 21, 2008

The Honorable Kevin Martin Chairman Federal Communication Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554 07-57

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Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the National Black Church Initiative, I wish to express my sincere outrage over a recent segment that aired on Sirius Satellite Radio, in which Sirius "shock jock" Howard Stern electronically manipulated audio from country singer Dolly Parton to create one of the most lewd, racist and sexist segments ever aired on any entertainment platform.

The notion that Mr. Stern, through the proposed monopoly-merger of Sirius and XM Satellite Radio, may soon have twice the spectrum to disseminate such despicable content is simply disgraceful. Today, we call upon the Congressional Black Caucus to urge outright rejection of this merger by the Federal Communications Commission. Simply put, there is no "public interest" in allowing Mr. Stern a larger platform to spew his filth.

Mr. Stern has long been the poster-child for offensive and indecent programming, and yet his career continues to be nurtured and advanced by Sirius CEO Mel Karmazin. One need only look at Mr. Stern's contract — worth at least \$500 million — to understand just how well he has been rewarded for his vile programming. But to reward Mr. Stern and his employer with a monopoly platform for such programming would run contrary to every advancement made in civil rights over the past century.

As a group representing more than 16,000 African American and Latino churches, we feel it is our duty to bring this material to your attention and urge your assistance in rejecting the proposed merger of Sirius and XM Satellite Radio.

Regards,
Rev. Anthon Evans
President

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